**7.1 Common Denominator**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Lesson Focus:** After this lesson, you will be able to:

* + Find a common denominator to a set of fractions
  + Compare and order positive fractions

**Power Words:**

* + Common Denominator
    - A common multiple of the denominators of a set of fractions
    - Ex: A common denominator for ¼ and 1/6 is 12 because a common multiple of 4 and 6 is 12.
  + Multiple
    - The product of a given number and a natural number like, 1, 2, 3, and so on
    - Ex: Some multiples of 3 are 3, 6, 9, 12, and 15, etc…

**Working Together:**

Method 1: Paper Folding or Diagrams

1. Determine a common denominator for 2/3 and ½.

We need a little QUIZ paper. We are going to fold it in ½ hotdog style and shade in ½.

Now we need another QUIZ PAPER. We will fold the paper into thirds (burrito style!). Now we will shade in 2/3. (This looks like pirate writing, don’t you think?)

Now…let’s look at what we’ve done. How can we make it so that each of the quiz papers is divided into sections that are the SAME size? Hmmm…any ideas how to make COMMON sizes on each paper?

What are the values of the fractions written with common denominators? How can you check if you are right?

Let’s try to use what we’ve learned to find common denominators for some fractions.

1. ¾ and ½
2. 2/8 and 1/5 (this one is going to be crazy!!!!)

Can we do this without drawing a diagram?

1. 5/6 and ½

Method 2: Common Multiples

Sometimes the common denominator is HUGE when we use the paper folding method or the paper folding shortcut!

We can use common multiples to find the common denominator

1. 3/8 and ¼
2. 2/4 and 1/2
3. 1/4 and 5/6